



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

Friday - October 13, 2006

**DRUG SMUGGLER CONVICTED ON CHARGES**  
**INVOLVING 250-KILOS OF COCAINE**

Tampa, FL - A federal jury today found Luis Alonzo-Ubina, of Honduras, guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; and possession with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine on board a vessel. The defendant will be sentenced on January 8, 2007, and faces a minimum mandatory term of ten years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment .

Six other crew members were indicted on the same charges on August 15th, 2006.

They all pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. The defendants were:

Jose Felix Bello-Anaya	Colombia
Aster Rey McNab	Honduras
Camilio Parra-Ortega	Colombia
Eleazar Angulo Tenorio	Colombia
Luis Eduardo Valencia-Pulgarin	Colombia
Carlos Alejandro Meza-Diaz	Colombia

\_\_\_\_\_ According to court documents, the Coast Guard cutter SPENCER, a 270' Medium Endurance cutter homeported in Boston, Massachusetts., located the Honduran-flagged fishing vessel MISS ELVIA on August 7, 2006, about 55 miles southeast of San Andreas Island, Colombia in the Western Caribbean Sea. The master claimed that he was waiting for permission from the government of Colombia to begin fishing in Colombian waters, but did not have any fishing gear onboard.

The Coast Guard approached the Honduran Merchant Maritime Center under the provisions of the U.S./Honduras maritime bi-lateral agreement. The maritime center confirmed that Honduras was the flag state for the MISS ELVIA and granted authority for the United States to stop, board, and search the MISS ELVIA, its cargo, papers, and crew. Once onboard, the boarding team located more than 250 kilograms of cocaine, hidden in a secret compartment. The Government of Honduras consented to the enforcement of U.S. law by the U.S.

This case was investigated by the Operation Panama Express Taskforce which is comprised of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher F. Murray, Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate, U.S. Coast Guard and Assistant United States Attorney Walter E. Furr.